

Comments on and interpretations of Nixon's yesterday's speech to his captive audience in Chicago, which delivered him one on TV, are scant and inadequate. I take the absence of interpretation of his picking a fight with all European allies in the WxPost not to be an accident. This particular note, separate from those already made while watching, is prompted by the incredible White House, "clarification" headed in WxPost "Case Prejudgement Avoided by Nixon." Having "prejudged" it in his 3/6/74 press conference, that was not what he was doing and not doing. However, this White House statement destroys any possibility of the St. Clair defense against misprison charges. It could hardly say more explicitly that on getting the "allegations. He was only dealing with allegations" he did absolutely nothing. Except, of course, to continue to cover up. If he had done anything at all these "allegations" would have been proven or disproven rapidly and would not have remained "allegations only. Nixon's own "day in court" comment is further proof that he had no investigation made and no charges filed....This is another of those childish simple diversions that works with childish ease because the childish press permits it. If his stupid gratuities about Europe were other than carelessness then the most serious interpretations should be considered because natural consequences include strong negative reactions in those countries and a USSR reappraisal of its priorities and its relations with the US and its close neighbors. Or, is Nixon starting a real big incident to distract even more from his criminalities. HW 316/74